

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN AF-18

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,GB

SUBJECT: DC-8 FOR GABON

REF: STATE 209444

PARIS FOR COHEN

1. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY MULCAHY MET WITH AMBASSADOR MAVOUNGOU ON SEPTEMBER 26 AND DELIVERED DIPLOMATIC NOTE INFORMING GOG OF DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL OF ISSUANCE OF AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR DC-8 63F AIRCRAFT. AT CLOSE OF MEETING AMBASSADOR MAVOUNGOU WAS GIVEN AN AIDE-MEMOIRE INCORPORATING ADDITIONAL POINTS MADE ORALLY BY AMBASSADOR MULCAHY RE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION.

2. MAVOUNGOU SAID WORD OF DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL INDICATED IN REFTTEL HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT BONGO IN PARIS.

MAVOUNGOU WILL PASS COPIES OF NOTE AND AIDE-MEMOIRE IN NY TO FORIEGN MINISTER OKUMBA WHO WILL CONVEY THEM TO BONGO

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IN PARIS PRIOR TO LATTER'S DEPARTURE ON TRIP TO FAR EAST.

3. FOR LIBREVILLE: IN ABSENCE PRESIDENT BONGO AND FORMIN OKUMBA, EMBASSY REQUESTED DELIVER COPIES OF TEXTS OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE AND AIDE-MEMOIRE AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN MFA.

4. FOR USUN AND ADDIS: SEPARATE INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE SENT FOR UN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND OAU AFTER LICENSE HAS BEEN ISSUED BY COMMERCE DEPARTMENT. YOU SHOULD TAKE NO REPEAT NO ACTION UNTIL THAT TIME.

5. TEXT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE FOLLOWS:

QUOTE, A. THE SECRETARY OF STATE PRESENTS HIS COMPLIMENTS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC AND HAS THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE MESSAGE RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 9 FROM HIS EXCELLENCY ALBERT BERNARD BONGO, PRESIDENT OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC, AND TO REFER TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTES OF JUNE 28, JULY 30 AND SEPTEMBER 10, 1974, REGARDING THE EXPORT OF A DC8-63-CF AIRCRAFT FROM THE UNITED STATES TO GABON.

B. THE SECRETARY OF STATE NOTES THAT THE AFOREMENTIONED MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BONGO STATES THAT THE DC8-63-CF AIRCRAFT IS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL USE AND ALSO FOR USE BY AIR AFRIQUE. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ALSO NOTES THAT IN THIS MESSAGE THE PRESIDENT OFFICIALLY RENEWS THE ASSURANCES CONTAINED IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE OF JUNE 28, 1974 THAT , INTER ALIA, IN NO EVENT WILL THE DC8-63-CF AIRCRAFT BE USED IN A WAY THAT MIGHT BENEFIT ANY ONE OF THE COUNTRIES CENSURED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF WHICH GABON IS A MEMBER, SUCH AS THE OAU, UN AND OCAM. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ACCEPTS THESE ASSURANCES AS A PERSONAL WRITTEN GUARANTEE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC THAT THIS AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE USED IN ANY WAY CONTRARY TO UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION 253 OF 1968 PERTAINING TO RHODESIA SANCTIONS.

C. IN RELIANCE UPON THIS SOLEMN COMMITMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC, THE OBSERVANCE OF WHICH WILL BE IMPORTANT IN FUTURE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE GABONESE REPUBLIC, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS PREPARED TO ACCEDE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED AIRCRAFT. UNQUOTE.

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TEXT OF AIDE-MEMOIRE FOLLOWS:

6. QUOTE, A. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERS TO THE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1974 BETWEEN ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY EDWARD MULCAHY AND HIS EXCELLENCY VINCENT MAVOUNGOU, AMBASSADOR OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC, AND CONFIRMS THE FOLLOWING POINTS MADE BY THE ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT THAT MEETING WITH REGARD TO THE EXPORT OF A DC-8 3F AIRCRAFT FROM THE UNITED STATES TO GABON.

B. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL INFORM THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY OF ITS APPROVAL OF THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR THE AFOREMENTIONED AIRCRAFT IN THE LIGHT OF WRITTEN ASSURANCES RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC THAT THE AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE USED IN ANY WAY TO BENEFIT ANY COUNTRY CENSURED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF WHICH GABON IS A MEMBER, INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE OAU.

C. IT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE ASSURANCES CONSTITUTE A COMMITMENT THAT THE AIRCRAFT WILL NOT FLY TO OR FROM RHODESIA; WILL NOT BE UTILIZED TO TRANSSHIP VIA A THIRD COUNTRY CARGO ORIGINATING IN OR DESTINED TO RHODESIA; WILL NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER PARTY WITHOUT THE PRIOR CONSENT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT; AND WILL NOT BE USED AS A SOURCE OF SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS FOR ANY OTHER AIRCRAFT. IT WAS ON THE BASIS OF THIS UNDERSTANDING THAT APPROVAL OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE LICENSE WAS GIVEN.

D. USE OF THE AIRCRAFT CONTRARY TO THE ABOVE RESTRICTIONS WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT FUTURE APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSES TO EXPORT AIRCRAFT AND SPARE PARTS FROM THE UNITED STATES TO THE GOVERNMENT, COMPANIES OR RESIDENTS OF GABON.
UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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